

Claims :

1. A stent for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, the stent comprising :
 - a) an exterior surface, an interior surface and side surfaces,
 - b) wherein at least a portion of the exterior surface is roughened to a predetermined extent for coating with a drug.
2. A stent according to claim 1, comprising at least a portion of the interior surface which is roughened to a predetermined extent.
3. A stent according to claims 1 or 2, comprising at least a portion of the side surfaces which is roughened to a predetermined extent.
4. A stent according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the outer surface and/or the inner surface and/or side surfaces are coated with a drug, preferably Tacrolimus.
5. A stent according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said stent comprises a stainless steel.
6. A balloon catheter device for inserting a tubular stent, comprising a stent as defined in any of claims 1 to 5.

7. A method for fabricating a stent for placement in a body lumen, said method comprising the following steps:
 - a) forming a tube which can be employed from a contracted state to an expanded state, said stent having an exterior surface, an interior surface and side surfaces,
 - b) roughening of at least a portion of the exterior surface to a predetermined extent,
 - c) coating of said surface with a drug.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the interior surface is roughened to a predetermined extent.
9. A method according to claims 7 or 8, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces is roughened to a predetermined extent.
10. A method according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the surface is roughened to a predetermined extent by sandblasting.
11. A method according to any of claims 7 to 10, including an additional step d) after step a) wherein imperfections such as sharp edges and burrs are removed from the surface of the tube.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the imperfections are removed by burring.
13. A method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the imperfections are removed by electropolishing.
14. A method according to any of claims 7 to 13, wherein the imperfections are removed by sandblasting.
15. A method according to any of claims 10 to 14, wherein sand is used for sandblasting.
16. A method according to any of claims 10 to 15, wherein glass beads are used for sandblasting.

17. A method according to any of claims 10 to 16, wherein corundum is used for sandblasting.
18. A method according to any of claims 7 to 17, wherein the drug is Tacrolimus.
19. A method according to any of claims 7 to 18, wherein the drug is applied by spraying on the roughened surface.
20. A method according to any of claims 7 to 19, wherein the tube is annealed.